

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please add the following paragraph beginning at page 44, **before line 40**:

Fig. 6 shows a free-standing dyed cholesteric layer which is corner mounted on the movable faces of a four-jaw chuck.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 47, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To carry out the lasing experiment, a free standing dyed cholesteric layer 20 is corner mounted on the movable faces 30 of a four-jaw chuck over an optical port 29, as shown in FIG. 6. The pump beam is a frequency doubled mode-locked Nd:YAG laser with 35 ps pulses at a wavelength of  $\lambda=532$  nm. The experimental setup corresponds to the schematic drawing of FIG. 1.